

OFFICE OF THE LEWIS COUNTY



SHERIFF

Sheriff's Office Rapsheet

"PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH PROFESSIONAL SERVICE"



MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF:

It is hard to believe leaves are turning different colors, football is on again, the weather is cooler, and children are back in school. How have nine months passed so quickly since I was elected as your Sheriff? As they say, time passes quickly when you are having fun, and even though being Sheriff has its challenges, I'm really enjoying serving as your Sheriff.

The people who work for your Sheriff's Office are true professionals and are working hard to get a lot done. We have met over half of our 35 operational goals we set for ourselves in January. We continue to be creative, innovative, and progressive in how we bring you, "Public Safety through Professional Service".

We sincerely appreciate your support. While the rest of the country deals with anti-law enforcement rhetoric, we are lucky to instead see a great deal of support for our office and the critical work we do. We've received phone calls, cards, and even a poster or two from students at local schools, thanking us for our service. We take your trust in our office, our positions, and our personnel very seriously. We love being involved in the community and working hand in hand with our citizens to make Lewis County a safer place to live, work, play, and conduct business.

I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to serve as YOUR Sheriff.

Wishing you a safe and happy fall season – Remember to buckle up and drive safely.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Snaza".

Sheriff Robert R. Snaza

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CRIME STOPPERS
OF
LEWIS COUNTY
1-800-748-6422



Mission Statement:

Being a committed community partner, providing professional service to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life in Lewis County.

345 W. Main Street, Chehalis, WA 98532 ★ (360) 748-9286 ★ www.lewiscountywa.gov/sheriff



Mission

Being a committed community partner, providing professional service to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life in Lewis County.

Vision

Committed to excellence in being a trusted, respected, and professional public safety agency.

Core Values

Trustworthiness
Responsibility
Compassion
Fairness
Respect

*Piles of leaves
Cool breeze
Pumpkin pie
It's turkey time!*

SHERIFF'S ENFORCEMENT TEAM

By: Chief Bruce Kimsey, Field Operations Bureau



Sheriff Snaza selected a group of deputies to form a unit for proactive activities in Lewis County. After a selection process took place, a sergeant and three deputies were identified to be in the new unit called the Sheriff's Enforcement Team (SET).

The Sheriff's Enforcement Team hit the ground running in August, employing a proactive team approach at addressing criminal activity within this county.

SET will focus on the hotspots of criminal activity in Lewis County by swooping into high-crime hotspots, addressing traffic-related problems, and identifying and arresting burglars, traffickers of stolen property, and wanted fugitives.

While not a drug unit, SET will assist the Joint Narcotics Task Force, when needed for surveillance, criminal drug operations, and search warrants. SET will also be responding to priority calls for service to assist their fellow deputies working patrol.

If you have information for SET and you wish to remain anonymous, please call Crime Stoppers of Lewis County at 1-800-748-6422, or submit a tip online at: www.lewiscountycrimestoppers.org



MENTAL HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY AND JAIL

By: Chief Kevin Hanson, Corrections Bureau

Pick up the daily newspaper, look at the local blogs, or watch national television, and you will undoubtedly learn of tragic situations occurring across this country involving mentally ill people and their impact to public safety. These people, suffering from untreated mental illness, most often end up in the criminal justice systems because there is no other source of help or services for them.

It goes like this; John Doe is diagnosed as having a mental illness. His Psychiatrist prescribes medication to help him. While on his medications he can hold a job and function as a productive member of our community. John doesn't like how the medications make him feel so he stops taking them. John has a hard time making good decisions, doesn't pay his rent, loses his job, and ends up homeless. John has no money, is hungry and goes to a restaurant, eats, and leaves without paying. The police contact him and he is uncontrollable and not making sense. The police have no other means to protect him and the public so they charge him with defrauding an innkeeper and disturbing the peace. They take him to jail.

In jail, John is put into a green and white uniform (identifying him as a potential victim) and is housed in isolation. The area he is housed in has other inmates who also suffer from acute mental illness. John is seen by the contracted jail mental health employees and refuses to take his medications. John sees the judge, who orders a competency evaluation from a representative from Western State Hospital (WSH). Fortunately, the 2015 legislature passed a new law mandating WSH complete competency evaluations within seven days. The evaluation gets done and John is found not competent to stand trial until he completes a restoration process at WSH. Once done, WSH sends him back to the jail where he waits for up to 60 days for trial. During this time, John decides he doesn't like his meds so stops taking them. He de-compensates and now is no longer competent and the cycle starts again. John is a "high utilizer" of the criminal justice system.

Statistical data gathered by the Lewis County Jail shows 43% of the inmate population has unmet mental health needs. Mentally ill inmates charged with nuisance crimes spend two thirds longer in custody than non-mentally ill offenders.

In August of 2014, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office, Cascade Mental Health, Superior Court, and the Prosecutor collaborated to brainstorm a means to help these "high utilizers" stay out of the criminal justice system. The group created a post sentence program called Mental Health Alternative (MHA). The program's mission statement is: To assist Lewis County citizens living with mental illness to find recovery, limit involvement with and stay accountable to the criminal justice system, and grow as productive members of our community.

The program works through the criminal justice system by identifying mentally ill offenders, while incarcerated, and coordinating between the courts, mental health providers, defense attorneys, and the prosecutor. The high utilizer is eventually released with court ordered conditions of release, which include approved housing, medical and mental health care, routine follow-up court appointments, and medication monitoring. The program currently has nine participants and has shown significant success in helping the mentally ill become productive members of our community and keeping them out of the criminal justice system.



Harvest Autumn
Apple Cider Leaves
Thanksgiving
Fall SPOOKY
Football Scarves
Mums Caramel
Bewitched Pumpkins



Autumn

Is a second spring

When every leaf

Is a flower.... Albert Camus



AUTUMN:

Cardigans

Moccasins

Flannel Shirts

Big Sweaters

Scarves

Pumpkin Picking

Haunted Hayrides

Apple Cider

Pies of Leaves

Tea and Coffee Daily

Bon Fires

Sunny Days

Cool Nights

Everything



DRUG DROP BOX

By: Director Isabelle Williams, Property Management

“Pre”-Drop Box Trivia: Since 1995, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office Evidence Division has accepted expired medications. This was mainly done by word of mouth or if a citizen telephoned in and asked. Each such “intake” had a found property case number pulled, drugs were weighed, and all “in's & outs” documented. This is the process still used today.

The current Drop Box Program became “formalized” with public service announcements, advertisements, and the development of actual drop box locations in 2010. It gave the opportunity for different agencies to participate in a more unified approach; giving citizens various locations to utilize this valuable disposal service. As boxes were installed, we began tracking weights of disposed medication as of January 2011.



When the program was started, it was hoped illicit drugs would be dropped off, in addition to Rx medications. To date we have not received any illicit drugs. Approximately two months ago, Centralia PD got their first bundle of meth-amphetamine (field tested positive) in their drop box. Representatives from Centralia PD were very surprised!

Along with Rx medications, we have received veterinary prescriptions, medical equipment (such as catheters, diabetic testing supplies, etc.), dentures, syringes, etc.

We have no doubt this program has been successful in keeping unused and unneeded medications off the streets, and out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them.



Did you know that Code Red is a FREE service to all Lewis County residents? It could be the call that makes the difference for you and your loved ones.

Code Red provides a mass notification to the community in the event of a disaster or other critical emergency. Code Red has been used locally to advise communities of water main breaks, power outages, and fire evacuation. Code Red can be used for missing child reports, evacuation notices, and bioterrorism alerts. There is no fee to sign up to receive Code Red notices. Sign up today! Sign up going to:

<http://lewiscountywa.gov/911-code-red> or by calling the Lewis County Communications Center at (360) 740-1464.

SHERIFF'S AUCTIONS

By: Director Isabelle Williams, Property Management

Preparing for auction starts with the closing of cases. The first property to “go” is property that is returned to owners; then obvious illegal property is sent to destruction; the remaining legal items are then sorted for donation, repurpose, scrap, or auction.

Auction items are cleaned up, tagged, listed on the appropriate auction log and boxed up. Depending on which auctioneer service is being used, evidence staff and volunteers will either transport all auction items to the auction house or the auctioneer will come to the evidence facility and pick up all auction items.

When auction time is nearing, all advertisements, postings, and notices have to be made ten (10) days prior to sale.

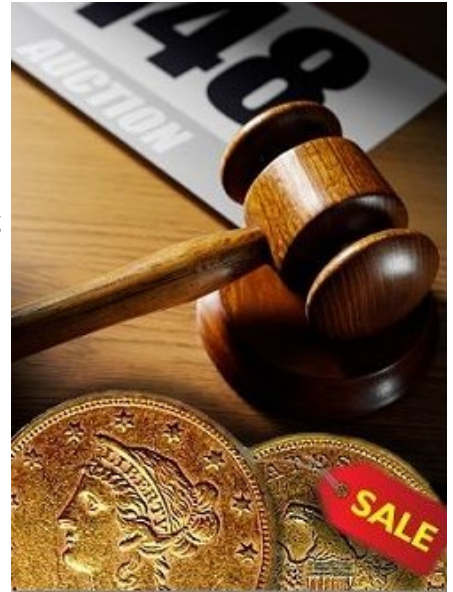
All auctions are open to the public and the items go to the highest bidder.

Whenever the LCSO prepares for auction, we invite other law enforcement agencies in Lewis County to partner with us. This allows us to share costs and makes for a better auction!

We typically go to auction two to three times per year based on volume, size, and space availability. Basically, once we have enough items to go to auction, we go. Whenever we have vehicles ready to go, they are sent due to the storage space they take up.

Evidence personnel really enjoy the auctions as they are interesting, fun, and it frees up valuable storage space! The Evidence Division helps to save money by scrapping or repurposing, and provide our community with donations. All county offices benefit from the revenue generated by these auctions.

Auctions are really successful endeavors all the way around!



THANK YOU FROM SCHOOLS TO LCSO

Students at St. Joseph's Catholic School showed their support for our office by dropping off a poster showing their thanks, along with a prayer written on the back.



JOINT NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM

By: Chief Bruce Kimsey, Field Operations Bureau

The Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET) is a regional drug task force created in 2015 through partnerships with Chief Carl Nielsen of Centralia PD, Chief Glenn Schaffer of Chehalis PD, and Sheriff Robert Snaza.

JNET is primarily a covert narcotics investigation team whose primary function is to reduce the sale and use of illicit drugs in Lewis County.

Since most of the activities of this specialized team are “undercover” or covert, JNET’s work is not always immediately noticed by citizens.

Most narcotics investigations take many hours to complete; therefore, these investigations are often not a "quick fix" for a problem area. It may take several weeks, or even months, to develop enough evidence to arrest and successfully prosecute to effectively shut a drug dealer’s operation down, but the net results have a lasting impact on our communities.

As of August 2015, JNET has served a total of 47 search warrants; made 94 felony drug arrests, 18 other felony arrests, along with 11 other misdemeanor arrests.

JNET is staffed by a sergeant from the City of Centralia, three Centralia detectives, one LCSO detective, and one Chehalis detective.

The unit does an outstanding job working together with local, state and federal law enforcement partners to investigate our number one concern of dangerous drugs.





- **Avoid trick-or-treating alone.** Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Fasten **reflective tape to costumes** and **bags** to help drivers see you.
- Carry a **flashlight or glow stick** to help you see, and others see you.
- Always **WALK** and don't run from house to house, **watching for cars** backing up or turning who might not be able to see you.
- **Cross the street at corners**, using traffic signals and crosswalks when possible.
- **Put electronic devices down** and keep your head up watching for cars.
- Only visit well-lit houses. **Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Never accept rides from strangers.**
- **Examine all treats** before eating looking for choking hazards and tampering.



WET WEATHER DRIVING TIPS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

- First and foremost: Be patient and slow down! Remember it takes longer to slow down or stop in wet weather.
- Stay toward the middle lanes on highways as water tends to pool in the outside lanes.
- Maintain proper following distance (one car length for every 10 mph). This needs to be increased in wet weather.
- Don't follow large trucks or buses too closely. The spray created by their tires can reduce your vision. Take care when passing them as well.
- Turn your headlights on even in light rain, foggy, or overcast conditions. Not only do headlights help you see the road, but they'll help other drivers see you.
- Before it starts to rain, replace old windshield wipers, make sure your windshield washers work, and you have plenty of washer fluid.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA) INSTRUCTION COURSE

Hosted by the Lewis County Sheriff's Office
Submitted by: Captain Dustin Breen, Field Operations Bureau

During the week of August 10, 2015, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Chehalis Police Department, hosted a Handgun and Shotgun Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor course. The course was administered by the National Rifle Association's (NRA) Law Enforcement Activities Division (LEAD). The course was taught by instructors Steve Ryan and Tom Miller, adjunct instructors for the NRA's LEAD. This is the first time this valuable training was hosted locally, and proved to be a huge success.



Conference attendees included a total of 20 students from law enforcement agencies in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, and Mississippi. Successful completion of this course prepares and certifies students as instructors to conduct law enforcement firearms training and qualifications. Firearms and the use of deadly force are high liability in law enforcement, and often requires law enforcement officers to make split second life changing decisions. The use of deadly force can also be one of the most controversial topics of law enforcement. The Lewis County Sheriff's Office is proud to be able to partner with the NRA LEAD to provide this critical training to those who have the great responsibility of preparing our student law enforcement officers for these incidents.





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE



EVER WONDER...

TEEN VERSION

What its like to work in the SHERIFF'S Office?

How does a K-9 track a suspect?

What it feels like to make life or death, split second decisions?

If its as easy to lift fingerprints and gather evidence [as seen on CSI]?

What it takes to put a criminal case together?

What its like to be inside the jail?

What jail food tastes like?

Come find out!

NOVEMBER 5TH, 2015

3:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.
(DINNER INCLUDED)

- 18 teens will be selected (lottery style)
- Security background check & parent/guardian waiver required
- Must be 14-18 yrs old & reside in Lewis County
- To register, E-mail:

Chief Stacy Brown at: stacy.brown@lewiscountynvwa.gov
With name, age, city of residence, school attending, contact and phone number

- DEADLINE for entry October 23rd
- Participants will be notified by E-mail during week of October 26th

Activities:

- ♦ Meet Sheriff Snaza
- ♦ Fingerprinting
- ♦ Jail tour-sack dinner provided
- ♦ Evidence facility tour
- ♦ K-9 Demonstration
- ♦ Firearms training simulation using FATS machine
- ♦ Criminal law briefing with special guest, Prosecutor Jonathan Meyer
- ♦ Panel Q & A Session
- ♦ Learn how you can be involved in the Explorer Program

"Public Safety through Professional Service"

